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A Comment

As a matter of policy, this editor avoids statements of intent, achievement, breast beating, and similar conceits. Yet for this, the 80th issue, something special seemed to be called for.

Consequently, this issue commemorates eight "regulars" -- poets who have come to be associated with the magazine in the minds of readers. All first appeared in the first decade of the mag and all (except Gloria Kenison) survived with us through the second decade. Poems appearing here are new but not specially solicited for the occasion -- just taken from the "accepted" file. Appearances of the poets in past issues are noted for fans and collectors (ss = a yellow-paper special section; cb = a chapbook special issue).

Every three years, the editor prepares an index and tries to decide whether or not to continue publishing for three more years. The decision always depends on three factors: (i) the number of interesting new poets found, (ii) the mag's general vitality, and (iii) its capacity to pay its own way. There will be a note in issue 82 as to whether the mag will continue past issue 84. Thank you, thank you, the readers, for your attention and past support.

-- Marvin Malone